

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Hovey: New Law Qualifies Every 112th District Household for Heating Assistance



Every household in the 112th District can save money on home heating equipment tune-ups and on installation costs for water heater blankets, window film and programmable thermostats, thanks to legislation approved by the state legislature during the October 25th special session, state Representative DebraLee Hovey announced today.

The measure (Senate Bill 2100), also exempts energy efficiency products and energy efficient heating equipment from the 6 percent state sales tax from November 25, 2005 to April 1, 2006, said Representative Hovey, R-112th District, who voted for the bill.

“Much of the legislation the Connecticut General Assembly has approved over the past 30 or 40 years has provided benefits only to certain income groups - which has meant most Monroe and Newtown residents did not qualify for them. This new law makes no such distinctions,” Representative Hovey said.

“This measure makes energy-efficiency upgrades more affordable to every household in the 112th District. With home heating costs expected to hit record-high levels this winter, I would encourage everyone to take advantage of the savings it provides to make needed weatherization improvements to your homes over the next few months,” Representative Hovey said.

The measure establishes a broader Home Energy Assistance and Reimbursements for Tune-ups on Heating Equipment (HEARTH) grant program for the 2005 – 2006 fiscal year. It provides a reimbursement of up to \$50 per household to eligible contractors who provide home heating equipment tune-ups and install or provide water heater blankets, window film or programmable thermostats, Representative Hovey said.

Under the legislation, the state Office of Policy and Management (OPM), will administer the program for households that do not qualify for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), which helps low-income households pay their heating bills and provides related services. The Department of Social Services (DSS) administers the program for households eligible for benefits under CEAP, Representative Hovey said.

The measure entitles households that do not meet CEAP income guidelines to apply to OPM for a certificate that enables them to take advantage of the benefit. Homeowners must provide the certificate to the contractor performing the home heating equipment tune-up or installing the energy conservation devices so the contractor can apply to OPM for the reimbursement. Contractors must deduct the amount of the reimbursement from the bill they send to customers for the goods or services they provide, Representative Hovey said.

The program becomes effective after the governor signs the bill into law.

CEAP-eligible households should call DSS at 1-800-842-1508 for information on how to obtain the benefit. All other households should call OPM at 860-418-6200 or Toll Free at 1-800-286-2214, Representative Hovey said.